

Application No.: 10/690,535
Art Unit: 3644

Attorney Docket No. 23610.00
Confirmation No. 9103

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 14, and cancelled Claims 11 and 12. Claims 1-10 and 13-15 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kricke (US Patent No. 892,528). Claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones (US Patent No. 2,812,608). Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kricke in view of Ditto (US Patent No. 843,588). The specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the language of Claims 13 and 14. Claims 11 and 14 were objected to because of minor informalities. The Examiner indicated that Claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 12 and intervening Claim 11. Amended Claim 1 is devoid of the informality noted by the Examiner with respect to original Claim 11. Claim 14 has been amended to recite "a supporting post" in the interest of consistency. Incorporated Claims 11 and 12 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent Claim 1 and its corresponding dependent Claims 2-10 and 13-15 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

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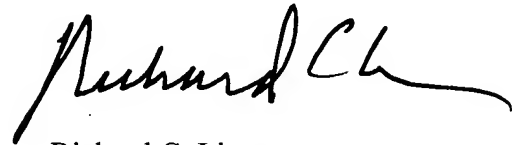
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With regard to the Examiner's objection to the specification, Applicant has amended the specification at page 7 to describe the "mounting clamp" as recited in original Claims 13 and 14. No new matter has been introduced.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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